

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-14 and 16 are pending. Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-14 and 16 are allowed. By this Amendment, Claim 15 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 10 is amended merely to address an informality therein.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment cancels, without prejudice or disclaimer, the non-allowed claim (i.e., Claim 15) and amends an allowed claim (i.e., Claim 10) to correct an informality therein noted by the Office Action; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-14 and 16 Allowed

Applicant respectfully acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner indicating Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-14 and 16 are allowed.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 15 are objected to for informalities therein. Claim 10 has been amended responsive to the objection and Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,448,663 to Uchiyama in view of JP 10-014428 to Tsutomu. Although Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, since Claim 15 is canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, allowance of Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-14 and 16, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to **attorney docket number 107156.00215**.

Respectfully submitted,


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